

The Tuskegee Student.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF STUDENTS AND GRADUATES OF THE TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE.

VOL. XV.

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NO. 28.

The Negro's Business Growth.

FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF
THE NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE.

The fourth annual convention of the National Negro Business League, that closed a three-days' session in the hall of the General Assembly in the Tennessee State capitol at Nashville yesterday, was truly a remarkable demonstration of the enterprise, thrift and cleverness of these people. It was by far the largest and most important convention held by the league since its organization by Booker T. Washington in the summer of 1900 at Boston. The declared purpose of the league is to stimulate business interests and to further the growth of commercial enterprises among the colored people, and from the reports brought to the Nashville

convention by Negro business men and women from, at least, 30 states of the Union, there is abundant evidence that the league idea is taking hold of the people to an extent that was scarcely to be expected.

The Nashville meeting was opened by Mr. Washington in the presence of nearly 300 delegates, two-thirds of whom were from the Southern states, and a large number of leading white citizens of Nashville, including city and state officials, together with a great throng of proud, enthusiastic and loyal colored people. Glowing words of welcome were spoken by the mayor, the president of the chamber of commerce, the president of the retail merchants' association, and representatives of the educational and other interests of the colored people.

The delegates were a prosperous-looking set of men and women.

Among them were found successful bankers, real estate dealers, managers of successful insurance companies, well-to-do merchants, planters, shippers, manufacturers, druggists, undertakers, carriage builders, caterers, contractors, hotel proprietors, building and loan associations, transfer companies, coal and wood dealers and publishing companies. There were present also a large number of physicians, lawyers, dentists, ministers and leading educators,—in fact, nearly every calling was represented, except the politician.

The convention had none of the characteristics of the mass-meeting; it was deliberative, earnest and sane in the rendering of reports of the progress, as well as in the consideration of ways and means to enlarge the business standing and influence of the colored people. One of the Nashville papers noted the

important fact that not a single "point of order" was raised throughout the entire session.

The reports of progress in the development of a business sense among the colored people in the South, and the story of individual achievements in all possible lines of endeavor, made the proceedings of the convention peculiarly interesting and at times thrilling. Among the sturdy men of this dark and handicapped race there was an abundant evidence of that sterling quality of strength and persistence that are the characteristics of races that cannot be kept permanently in subjection. Many of the men who spoke in broken English were former slaves, and came into the domain of freedom and the responsibilities of citizenship with scant preparation, yet one of these men has developed a wholesale produce business, and has, during the



A PART OF THE TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE DAIRY HERD.

Showing a Rear View of the Girls' Trades Building, Dorothy Hall, and the School's Beautiful Chapel.

first six months of the present year, shipped \$50,000 worth of produce to Northern centers, and has firmly established himself as one of the most reliable and shrewd business men of Nashville. Another man, without schooling, created a business of his own and has made a specialty of shipping walnut logs and other valuable woods to Germany. Another man told how in a certain Ohio town he had succeeded in establishing a hotel that has the reputation of being the best kept and the most popular hotel in that section of the country, and is known far and wide among the traveling men of the country. Six banks are now in successful operation and no failures or defalcations noted. These men have, during the past fifteen years, created hundreds of positions for book-keepers, accountants and clerks of all kinds.

In all of these reports of success there was not heard a single note of complaint or discouragement. In every recital of success the men were

honest enough to speak fairly, and in many cases gratefully, of the encouragement given them by their white fellow citizens. The spirit of the men in this assembly of progress was optimistic at all times. Patience, courage and confidence rang out in every utterance of speech or resolution. All this comes with special importance and force in these days, when so many disparaging things are being said concerning the Negro's worth and capacity to save himself from being submerged. The convention has shown that with increasing intelligence the Negro is successfully busy in every important direction. He is getting a foothold in the soil. He is getting hold of the things and forces that will, in a few years, be a source of strength that must be reckoned with.

A special feature of the Nashville convention was the abundant evidence of Mr. Washington's stronghold on the colored people of the South. The business man, the educator, the professional man and the tradesman

in the convention were fully representative of the best there is in the life of the Negro, and they are the supporters of the Tuskegee president. His every recommendation, and his every advice was indorsed and acted upon with enthusiasm. By way of emphasizing their confidence in the wisdom of his leadership, the convention rose en masse and without the formality of a nomination re-elected him president for another year by acclamation, also making him a life member of the organization. It was the most dramatic scene of the convention and a fine tribute of confidence and loyalty. It made the Tuskegee leader happy, and stronger than ever in his heroic purpose to serve those who most need his services.

A study of the men and women who composed the league membership, and the new interests that are being worked out and developed by it, indicate a distinct departure from old methods. The eloquent and sentimental Negro leader of other days

has served his times. There is growing conscientiousness of responsibility. The colored man or woman who can do something that is important is becoming more influential than the man or woman who can merely say something, be it ever so eloquent. These sturdy men who are winning all kinds of successes against all kinds of adversities are helping the race to place a stronger emphasis on duties than on rights. In this new departure from the old way of solving the race problem to the new way of practical efforts, the country is bound to take a deeper and stronger interest in the colored race. Many interesting characters are being developed, and fresh and commanding evidences will be furnished of the power of this race to rise above and go beyond the limits fixed by present conditions.—MRS. FANNIE BARRIER WILLIAMS, in the Springfield Republican.

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EMMETT J. SCOTT, - EDITOR.

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SEPTEMBER 12, 1903.

Mr. John J. Wheeler has been relieved of work in the class-room and is to be the school's librarian during the coming year.

Sergeant Elbert Williams of the 25th United States Infantry Band has arrived and is to serve the school as band master and orchestra leader. Sergeant Williams comes from Fort Niobrara, Neb., where he has been stationed for some time. He has served in the army for the past fifteen years and for several years has been connected with the 25th Infantry Band.

Principal Washington has accepted the invitation of the National Baptist Convention, which meets in Philadelphia, September 16 to 21, to deliver an address before it Friday evening, September 18. The National Baptist Convention is the largest Negro organization in the world, and its leaders are distinctly in accord with Principal Washington in all of his labors to uplift his people.

Mr. J. Frank Armstrong of the Principal's office, and Miss Bessie I. Nunion were quietly married at Nashville, Tenn., a few days ago. Miss Nunion was formerly employed at the school, and will be heartily welcomed on her return by the many friends she had here then, and by the whole Tuskegee community. THE STUDENT, and teachers and students as well, extend congratulations.

Principal Washington returned to Tuskegee, Tuesday, September 8, to again personally take the "reins of government." The summer has been a hard and exacting one, with but little time for rest, and he returns as tired and worn as he was at the close of the term last May. A short vacation is contemplated very soon—one that will afford the opportunity for genuine rest, without annoyance of any kind whatever.

Mr. A. F. Crawford of Jersey City, N. J. is a new acquisition of the Horticultural Division. For several years Mr. Crawford conducted a very successful greenhouse business in Meriden, Conn. He comes to Tuskegee from Jersey City, where he resigned a lucrative position to accept work here, and brings to the work the experience and enthusiasm which will enable him to greatly improve the general appearance and beauty of the grounds.

Misses Lucile Pitts of Boston, Bessie Preston of Marquette, Michigan, Fannie Thompson of Washington, Mattie L. Lee of Atlanta, Childs of Cincinnati, and Mr. James A. Bailey of Hampton, Va. are among the new teachers who have arrived and begun the year's work. THE STUDENT wishes to extend to all the new teachers and students a hearty wel-

come, and to express the hope that the year will be one of profit and satisfaction to all concerned.

The large number of students in the Chapel at the first evening exercise of the year evidences the fact that from point of attendance the school will be larger this year than ever before. Though there are a large number of old students to return, and new ones to come who have already been admitted, nearly all the seats on the young men's side of the Chapel were occupied and there were but few vacant ones on the girls' side.

Mr. R. W. Thompson, until recently employed as assistant to the Principal's Secretary, has accepted a place in the Quartermaster's Division, War Department, Jeffersonville, Ind. Before leaving Washington eight months ago, Mr. Thompson took the civil service examination, and a vacancy offering at Jeffersonville, was certified for same by the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Thompson's short stay at Tuskegee was a pleasant one, and he retires with the good wishes of all with whom he worked and came in contact.

Mr. William Marion Cook, of New York, is visiting Tuskegee this week. Mr. Cook is undoubtedly the race's most prominent musical composer, and has won deserved recognition in the highest musical circles of the Great Metropolis. His work is of the highest quality, and has received discriminating praise on all sides. Mr. Cook wrote the music for Williams and Walker's "In Dahomey," and is also the musical director for these international fun-makers, soon to fill an engagement in London, where Mr. Cook goes in ten days. We have been delighted to have him with us, and only regret that his stay of ten days with us is so short.

Endurance often shows greater heroism than action. We are most impressed with the active side of a soldier's life,—his marchings and his fightings. But the hardest to bear in that life are the long watches, the sentry duty, the strain of expectancy in the presence of the enemy. And in the Christian warfare it is often harder to stand on guard than to march or to fight. Just to keep watch against the approach of temptation, to guard the weak places, to be on the outlook against the "well-placed sins," is not a very exciting and triumphant kind of work, but it is a very large part of a Christian's duty—of a Christian's soldiery even. When the Apostle bids the Ephesians take to themselves the whole armor of God, we expect him to lead them into conflict at once. But his exhortation is to "stand,"—not to fight. And this standing on guard is the hardest and the most needful thing for us in most situations of life.—Sunday School Times.

Mr. George W. Crawford, class of '96, who has won so many signal honors while taking the course in law at Yale University, is spending several days at Tuskegee during the current week. Mr. Crawford has made a splendid record for himself, and one of which any man could well be proud. The place he has won for himself at Yale is as bright a one as has been won by any man of any race who has attended that famous institution. It will interest our readers to know that the Probate Court of New Haven, Conn., offered Mr. Crawford a place immediately upon graduation,

for the summer vacation. When he left there a few days ago for the South, to take up practice in Birmingham, he was overtaken with a telegram at Savannah, offering him a permanent place at a most flattering salary in the office of the Probate Court, an offer which, under all the circumstances, Mr. Crawford does not feel he should lightly pass over. He has had a warm reception at the hands of his old teachers and former classmates who happened to be here at this time.

We publish two articles of exceptional interest in this issue of THE STUDENT both from the pens of writers who have a national hearing. Mr. Fortune's article which we republish from the New York Age is a rational discussion of the self-evident fact that the Negro is letting slip the fundamental, bread-winning occupations which for so long a time have been his. From Mr. Fortune's conclusions we believe there can be no intelligent dissent. Mrs. Williams' article is one of comment upon the recent session of the National Negro Business League held at Nashville, Tenn., last month. A close observer, as Mrs. Williams is, finds in the League evidences of the fact that it is becoming a strong and potential factor in helping the Negro people in a direction where help is most needed. The Negro seems to be approaching a crisis in his economic condition and it well behooves him to take his bearings, and, at the same time, full advantage of every opportunity which offers itself, not only to hold on to that which he has, but more largely in the future than in the past to secure that which he has not. We commend to our readers both of these articles with the hope that they will have careful and thoughtful reading.

Said Booker Washington, in accepting the formal disclaimer of responsibility on the part of Zion Church, Boston, for the disgraceful attack on him on the evening of July 30, with the accompanying expression of confidence and admiration: "I have always had the greatest sympathy for those members of our race who reside in the North and have had little opportunity to get a real insight into the problems of the South; and I have never failed to sympathize with their impatience because various wrongs are not righted more quickly; but we have a problem before us which demands the exercise of the greatest degree of forbearance, courage, patience and hard work. It is not well that all colored people should unanimously agree on a given policy. It is proper for us to differ, just as white people differ. The only way to secure a healthy discussion of all sides of a question is to have differences of opinion. But such differences should be manifested along high moral and intellectual lines, rather than by appealing to the lower instincts and to brute force." If we were not already convinced of the moral greatness and statesmanlike courage and foresight of Booker Washington, the breadth and magnanimity of this acceptance would remove our last lingering doubt. It takes mental and moral qualities of the highest order to enable a man to enter into the minds of his enemies and find excuses—defences almost—for their criminal actions. If the assaults of this great man are not shamed by this latest manifestation of his loyal love for his race, nothing can shame them.—From The Boston Pilot.

We Are Loosing Our Grip on Bread Winning Occupations.

The issue has been squarely raised as to the wisdom of giving to the Afro-American people classical or academic with the industrial education. The issue has been raised theoretically, as it is impossible to raise it actually, since there can be no conflict between the two systems of education, as was ably pointed out as far back as 1867 by Professor Thomas Huxley. The more education a man has the more fitted he becomes to be an industrious factor of whatever sort, as the requirements of modern industrialism call for the very highest education of the head and the hands. This should be obvious to the veriest tyro of social conditions, but it is not. If this condition were not axiomatic, it would still be true that what the great mass of mankind need for the supreme work of bread winning, is a sufficient mastery of the technique of basic occupations of our industrialism to enable them to make the best possible living for themselves while rendering the highest possible service to society. For this purpose the education furnished by our public school system would be adequate for the average individual who is not a genius born, but a plodder, a hewer of wood and drawer of water, whom no amount of higher education can make anything else. This is the blunt truth. Only a few of any race are born in the purple of genius, and it was not necessary to make any special arrangements for their education; like the running vine, they will find the sunlight for themselves, will get the education that they need for the special work that Nature has in store for them. It has been true in all ages of the world, and will always be true. The few will take care of themselves, in matters of education and in all other matters; but the masses have to be moulded for the work of society, and wisdom or folly will show in the result of their education. We think that this position will not be disputed.

Which have an example right at hand which should be conclusive with our own men. Since the war we have steadily lost our grip on the bread winning occupations, so that to-day we have no foothold in the skilled labor trades, and are even barred out of some of the manual labor occupations on equal terms with white labor. White men are supplanting us as janitors, waiters, butlers, coachmen and the like, in so far that we who have an eye constantly wide open, marvel how the race makes the money necessary for its eating, sleeping and clothing, and for its scandalous pleasures and dissipations, especially in the Northern states. Immediately after the war this was not true. In the Southern states we did most of the work in the skilled trades, as the result of our slave education, and most of the manual labor of all sorts in the North; we had a monopoly as janitors and house servants, and as waiters and coachmen.

In the skilled trades we began to loose our grip in the Southern states when the men educated in the school of slavery began to die off, and their children, who have been given the highest education, did not take their places. Northern workmen were drawn upon, in the first instance, to supply their places, and then, later by trade unionism, barred them out entirely. Then followed the same result, in a large measure, in the manual training occupations. Our men

had been educated away from them, and white were drawn upon to supply their places, and then, when they were strong enough, barred them out entirely. So it has been in all occupations. Our educated men did not take to the employment of their fathers, and white men stepped in and did so. Now it is difficult for us to secure work in any sort of occupation.

We believe in higher and industrial education; but we believe first and last in the gospel of work; if a man or a race cannot secure work, for whatever reason, what will be the end of that man or race? It is a fact that we have a larger number of educated loafers who cannot get any sort of employment than any other race of like number in the Republic; in like manner and for like reasons, we have a large number of ignorant loafers. We have chased the phantoms, of one sort and another, and the white man has grabbed the substance, so that the bread winning occupations are beyond our reach, or getting beyond our reach, and starvation is staring the race in the face in every state in the Republic, while many of our collegiate pundits are beating the air with razors, riot and confusion, and profanity, about the wisdom or unwisdom of higher or industrial education, as if any sort of education is worth a rap unless a man can get work by reason of it, or has sense enough to make work for himself, which seems not to be a race "trait and tendency," as Hannibal Thomas would put it.

Let the learned few wrangle over the sort of education we should have all they will; the masses of the race are beginning to feel the pinch of hunger and to wonder where has gone the opportunity to do an honest day's work and get an honest day's wages for it. And, sad to say, as a result of it all, the criminal record of the race is becoming more and more a terror to those of us who think with our heads and not with our mouths.

The main question is not, shall we have higher or industrial education, but, shall we have work of any sort to keep body and soul together? In 1887 we wrote this phase of the question down in the last chapter of a book called "Black and White," but we did not dream then that we should live to see it become a burning issue in the life of the race, with starvation and a horrible volume of crime as a logical sequence of it. We have passed through trying times in the dead past; do the present conditions indicate that the future holds promise of happier days? Let the higher education pundits answer that.—Mr. T. Thomas Fortune, in New York Age.

On Our Book and Magazine Table.

Edward Lowry, in The World's Work for September, speaks of New York as "a regenerated city," and puts to the credit of the present reform administration the following items: A cleaner and more healthful city, with better kept parks and streets, projected and accomplished public improvements, including docks, bridges, small parks, street signs, free baths, and buildings; a more efficient and better organized police force; the breaking of the system of police blackmail; almost total suppression of gambling, a better enforcement of the building and tenement laws, keeping immoral women off the street to a large extent, the closing of many notorious resorts, cleaning the town of crooks, and, on the whole, making New York a more desirable place to live and do business in than it was before.

Country Life in America is to have a double-sized Country Home Number for October, to deal with the most attractive and distinctive types of our country homes, the country over, showing in a comprehensive way the present tendencies of country architecture. Everything that has to do with country houses, even the kitchens, furnishings, plumbing and water supply, and the grounds generally, will be illustrated in the large and superb way characteristic of this beautiful magazine. The September issue of this beautiful magazine is one of the most attractive issues that has yet been published. The photographs, which profusely illustrate nearly every article, are especially fine. The cover design, two clusters of grapes, in richness of tone and harmony of color, is an unusually happy conception. "Driving for novices" tells briefly and simply exactly how a beginner should manage his horses. In "A discussion of the Fence Problem," a question of great importance to all land owners is treated from all points of view. Thomas Dixon, Jr., the well known novelist, writes with glowing color of "The Shore-Birds of Old Virginia." "Pheasant Collecting as a Pastime" describes the finest collection in America of these beautiful birds. The reader is told just when and how to plant bulbs in the fall in "Hardy Bulbs for Fall Planting." Another article of great practical value is "The Peach and Some Suggestions About Growing It," telling all about soils, temperatures and varieties.

Dr. Talcott Williams, of the Philadelphia Press, is a most scholarly and suggestive writer on political and sociological conditions, both at home and abroad. In the Booklovers Magazine for September he reviews city politics in American cities in comparison with European. He indicates the relation of the exploiting and the exploited; the identity of problems, needs, and methods in all American cities, whether large or small; the increasing tendency to union and organization, with greater efficiency and permanency. Special mention is made of individuals—mayors of great cities and others—who are today among the ruling forces in municipal government. Dr. Williams' valuable article is illustrated with numerous portraits. The following extract will prove of interest to the lover of civic virtue, of municipal cleanliness: "The three largest cities in the country have mayors to-day each of whom represents a phase of the new conditions. Three ways there are to-day in which a man may become the dominant head of an American city. He may, as Mayor Low, of New York, represent the uprising and combination of the classes neither exploiting nor exploited. He may, like Mayor Harrison of Chicago, be the individual chieftain of his own political clan and personal

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following, in his case inherited. Philadelphia has in Mayor Weaver a chief executive deliberately selected by a powerful political machine, corrupt unscrupulous, allied with every exploiting agency, corporation or political, whose head and whose governing men firmly believe that permanent political power in current municipal conditions is only possible by giving efficient administration. All these mayors, and this is the great change of the past ten years—only the past ten years—hold their places under an avowed policy of improved city government. Mayor Low really stands for it. Mayor Harrison wants to be believed to stand for it. Mayor Weaver claims to stand for it, and has so far justified his claim. The first has controlled the franchise corporations and driven hard bargains with them, the second has headed a long crusade against them, and the third has surprised Philadelphia by insisting on testing their legal rights and claims."

Owes His Life to a Neighbor's Kindness.

Mr. D. P. Daugherty, well known throughout Mercer and Sumner counties, W. Va., most likely owes his life to the kindness of a neighbor. He was almost hopelessly afflicted with diarrhoea; was attended by two physicians, who gave him little, if any, relief, when a neighbor learning of his serious condition, bought him a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which cured him in less than twenty-four hours. For sale by The Johnston Drug Co.

Heroes in Black Skins.

BY PRINCIPAL BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

[A digest of Mr. Washington's article in the September "Century," issued yesterday. By permission of the Century Company.]

Among the heroes in black skins whose careers are worthy of notice, may be mentioned John Matthews, Sergeant William H. Carney, "Rufus," Robert Smalls, Moses Turner, Will Philip Lining and "Rube" Lee.

John Matthews had been a slave in Virginia. When declared a free man by President Lincoln's proclamation, he still owed his master by ante-bellum contract, \$300 in connection with certain contracts made according to the customs of the times. Though released morally and legally from this obligation, he eventually walked over three hundred miles, from his home in Ohio, to put into his former master's hand every penny of this amount.

During the attack of the Federal forces upon Fort Wagner, on Morris Island, S. C., Sergeant William H. Carney, though terribly wounded, held the regimental colors of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts aloft through the entire conflict. When carried bleeding into the field hospital, he cried, "Boys, the old flag never touched the ground!"

"Rufus" is a poor old colored man who has a tiny cotton field near the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama. Recently, after harvesting his season's crop and paying all his debts, he had \$100 remaining. He promptly gave \$10 to the Tuskegee Institute to help the educa-

tion of some black boy or girl, and \$10 to the principal of a white school in the neighborhood, to help the education of some white boy or girl.

Robert Smalls was born a slave in Beaufort, S. C. During the war, while employed in a menial capacity on a Confederate steamboat called the Planter, he seized the vessel single-handed, one night in Charleston Harbor, and piloted the craft over to one of the Federal gunboats, to whose captain he presented it. The vessel was worth \$70,000. Smalls was made captain of the Planter, and rendered invaluable services to the Union forces. After the war he was elected to Congress three times. General Smalls, as he is now known, still lives in Beaufort, S. C.

During the closing days of the civil war Moses Turner was a slave on the plantation of a family named Turner in Virginia. The male members of the family were compelled to go to the front, leaving their women folk and treasure in the custody of the slave Turner. Several straggling bands of Northern soldiers, having heard of the wealth of the Turner family, visited the plantation and offered the slave freedom and safe transport to the North if he would reveal the hiding place of the women and the spot in the woods where he had buried the treasure. But Turner spurned all such offers. Once he was terribly tortured by the soldiers in their efforts to wring the information from him. But to the end he sacredly guarded his trust.

The heroism of Will Philip Lining is best told in that old familiar poem, "How He Saved St. Michael's." Its theme is the terrible conflagration which one hundred years ago almost destroyed the old city of Charleston, S. C. History tells that the slave Lining was given his freedom as a reward for his almost superhuman bravery.

At the Alabama Constitutional Convention, recently held in Montgomery, Ala., a member made a bitter attack upon the Negro race as being unreliable, untruthful and insolent. As one reply was told the story of old "Rube" Lee, one of the Alabama plantation slaves. It was a touching recital of the old slave, watching over and guarding the white women and little children of the plantation while the men folk were at the front, fighting in the Confederate ranks.

Such are a few of the types of "Heroes in Black Skins" who stand out against the dark back ground of the days of civil war in the United States.—From the New York Daily News.

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